

Consumer Price Index (CPI) Metropolitan Area Definitions

New York-Northern New Jersey-Long Island, NY-NJ-CT-PA, CMSA

New York City

Bronx, Kings, New York, Queens, Richmond

New York-Connecticut Suburbs

New York Portion:

Dutchess, Nassau, Orange, Putnam, Rockland, Suffolk,
Westchester

Connecticut Portion:

Fairfield, Litchfield (part), Middlesex (part),
New Haven (part)

New Jersey-Pennsylvania Suburbs

New Jersey Portion:

Bergen, Essex, Hudson, Hunterdon, Mercer,
Middlesex, Monmouth, Morris, Ocean, Passaic,
Somerset, Sussex, Union, Warren

Pennsylvania Portion:

Pike

Philadelphia-Wilmington-Atlantic City, PA-NJ-DE-MD, CMSA

New Jersey Portion:

Atlantic, Burlington, Camden, Cape May,
Cumberland, Gloucester, Salem

Delaware Portion:

New Castle

Maryland Portion:

Cecil

Pennsylvania Portion:

Bucks, Chester, Delaware, Montgomery, Philadelphia

Pittsburgh, PA, CMSA

Allegheny, Beaver, Butler, Fayette, Washington,
Westmoreland

Washington-Baltimore, DC-MD-VA-WV, MSA

Washington, DC-MD-VA-WV

District of Columbia Portion:

District of Columbia

Maryland Portion:

Calvert, Charles, Frederick, Montgomery, Prince George's,
Washington

Virginia Portion:

Arlington, Clarke, Culpeper, Fairfax, Fauquier, King
George, Loudoun, Prince William, Spotsylvania, Stafford,
Warren, Alexandria city, Fairfax city, Falls Church city,
Fredericksburg city, Manassas city, Manassas Park city

West Virginia Portion:

Berkeley, Jefferson

Baltimore, MD

Anne Arundel, Baltimore, Carroll, Harford, Howard, Queen

Anne's, Baltimore City

CPI Urban Areas Updated in 1998

The Bureau of Labor Statistics updated and improved its sample of urban areas in which prices for calculation of the Consumer Price Index are collected beginning in 1998. The BLS also made changes in the frequency of publication for a few of the local area CPIs in 1998. These changes allowed BLS to optimize the allocation of samples based upon a new area design and to incorporate the revisited definitions for Metropolitan Statistical Areas (MSAs). The selection of a new sample of urban areas is one of the first steps in the periodic revision of the CPI.

The new area sample selected by the BLS is based on the revised definitions for the Nation's metropolitan areas that the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) announced on December 31, 1992. All agencies that conduct statistical activities to collect and publish data for Metropolitan Statistical Areas (MSAs) have been directed to use the most recent definitions established by OMB.

In addition to the national index, the BLS previously published indexes for 29 urban areas. Starting in 1998, it will continue to publish indexes for all but two of these areas – Buffalo-Niagara Falls and New Orleans. Due to the revised MSA definitions issued by OMB, two other areas, Washington and Baltimore which the BLS previously published separately, constitute a new Consolidated Metropolitan Statistical Area. A single index is published for this consolidated area.

The new publication plan for local area indexes, which began with the index for January 1998, is summarized below:

*Monthly indexes will be published for the three largest metropolitan areas. Because of sample design considerations, indexes for the Philadelphia and San Francisco areas, both previously published monthly, will be published every other month.

*Bi-monthly, all items and major group indexes will be published for the next 11 largest areas, including Atlanta and Seattle which previously had semi-annual average indexes.

*Semi-annual average indexes will be published for the next 12 largest areas, including Pittsburgh and St. Louis which previously had bi-monthly indexes.